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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: April 3, 1969

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Bishop

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Jack Greenberg, an attorney with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), contacted our New York Office on March 17, 1969, and requested that an Agent sit in on an interview that Greenberg was going to have with Attorney Russell X. Thompson, an attorney from Memphis, Tennessee. In accordance with the Director's instructions, Greenberg was advised that an Agent would not sit in on the interview and if Thompson or Greenberg had any additional information, they could come to our New York Office and give such information.

It is noted that Mr. Thompson on April 11, 1968, (King assassinated April 4, 1968) appeared at our Memphis Office and advised he had a client, whom he would not disclose under any circumstances, who advised him that the murderer of Martin Luther King, Jr. escaped from the scene using a motorcycle, not a Mustang car. Thompson stated this individual also advised that the weapon used to kill King was a .30 caliber Savage rifle, and the barrel of the rifle had long since been disassembled and melted down. Thompson advised that he was of the opinion that his client was a mental case. Information furnished to us by Thompson was thoroughly checked out and nothing was found to be of significance.

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Thompson contacted our New York Office on March 18, 1969, and advised that he would probably return to Memphis on approximately March 19, 1969, and upon his return, he would contact our Memphis Office to arrange an appropriate time to furnish the information that he possesses, as it would be more practical to furnish the information to the FBI in Memphis since they are more familiar with streets, locations, and other pertinent details. Thompson at this time admitted he had no information that he classifies as great or spectacular such as the news media was attempting to convey. In accordance with the Director's instructions, SAC Jensen of our Memphis Office was instructed to listen to Thompson and absolutely nothing be disclosed to him.

Enclosure

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On March 26, 1969, Mr. Thompson contacted our Memphis Office and he apologized for a story which appeared in a Memphis newspaper which quoted him as saying that he turned his entire confidential file on the James Earl Ray case over to the FBI. Mr. Thompson said that he frankly doubted and did not contend that there was any conspiracy in the James Earl Ray case.

Mr. Thompson stated that he had much in the way of material which dealt with various suppositions, theories, and suspicions of his, but he frankly did not have any additional material that could be considered evidentiary in any way whatsoever. He offered to make his voluminous material available, but repeated all of his material was pure speculation. Mr. Thompson was told by our Memphis Office that in the event he received any information which he felt might be evidentiary in nature that our office would be interested in having an opportunity to review this material. Mr. Thompson indicated that should he receive any information of this type he would notify the Memphis Office.

ACTION:

In view of the fact that Mr. Thompson has not been forthright with us and in view of the fact he does not have any information of an evidentiary nature, it is recommended that we have no further contact with Mr. Thompson to solicit his material. We will accept information if he brings such to our attention. Attached for approval is a letter to the Department advising them of the interviews with Thompson.